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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-fourth session of the Commission/
fifteenth meeting of the Conference
of Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 6 - 10 April 1989

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DRAFT REPORT

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The twenty-fourth session of the Commission/fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning was held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, from 6 to 10 April 1989. The meeting was formally opened by Comrade Addis Tedla, Member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and Deputy Prime Minister in charge of National Planning and Studies Sector. Statements were also delivered at the opening ceremony by Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Mr. Idé Oumarou, Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and by Mr. Salvator Sahinguvu, Secretary of State, Ministry of Planning of Burundi who spoke on behalf of the Chairman of the twenty-third session of the Commission. A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar was read by Mr. A. Blanca, Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. H. E. Mr. Abdou Rahim Mikidache, Minister of Planning, Development, Environment, Town Planning and Housing of the Comoros, moved a vote of thanks on behalf of all the delegates.

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. Observers from the following States Members of the United Nations, not members of the Commission, were present: Argentina, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, the German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Hungary, India, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Rumania, Spain, the United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

4. Observers from the following States, not Members of the United Nations, were present: the Holy See, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland.

5. In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the African National Congress (ANC) was represented.

6. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Secretariat, Office for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance (OPPBF), United Nations Regional Commissions New York Office (RCNO), United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (UNDTCD), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Food Council (WFC), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Ariculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and World Food Programme (WFP).

7. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) was represented by its Secretary-General.

8. Observers were present from the following intergovernmental organizations: Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO), African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD), African Cultural Institute (ACI), African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP), African Development Bank (ADB), African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research (AIHTTR), African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO), Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), Banque centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (BCEAO), Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI), European Parliament (CEE-ACP),

Islamic Development Bank (IDB), African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), League of Arab States (LAS), Pan-African News Agency (PANA), Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (RCSSMRS), Regional Centre for Training in Aerial Surveys (RECTAS), Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) and Trans-African Highway Authority (TAHA).

9. Observers were also present from the following non-governmental organizations: Caritas International, the Ethopian Catholic Secretariat (ECS), International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Ethiopian Water Resources Development Authority, Japan International Co-operation Agency, League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU).

10. The Commission unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman:	Comarde Mersie Ijigu (Ethiopia)
First Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Awadh Abdulmottalub Bin Mosa (the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)
Second Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Pascal Gayama (the Congo)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Simon Ifédé Ogouma (Benin)

B. AGENDA

11. On 6 April 1989, the Commission adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.
3. Election of officers.
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
5. General debate on Search for an African Alternative for Structural Adjustment Programmes

I. Review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD), and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 (APPER)

(a) Annual Economic Report on Africa, 1989

(b) Outcome of the mid-term review of UN-PAAERD and APPER

(i) Work of the Ad Hoc Committee

(ii) General Assembly response

II. Proposal for an African Alternative for Structural Adjustment Programmes (AA-SAP):

- African Alternative for Structural Adjustment Programmes consistent with long-term development objectives.

6. Report and recommendations of the tenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole for consideration by the twenty-fourth session of the Commission/fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers on:

(a) Reports from the policy organs of the MULPOCs

(b) The situation of food and agriculture in Africa

(c) Environment in Africa

- Management of environmental degradation, particularly drought and desertification aspects, in the implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery

(d) Industrial Development in Africa

- Eighth joint ECA/OAU/UNIDO progress report on the implementation of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa

(e) Transport and Communications in Africa

- Progress report on the preparation for UNTACDA II

(f) Issues in social development

(i) Changing socio-economic conditions of women in Africa in the context of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

(ii) Overcoming economic obstacles to achieving health for Africa: The organization and functioning of a special fund for Africa

(g) Population

- Demographic patterns and trends: Implications for the implementation of UN-PAAERD and APPER

(h) Operational activities

- Report on ECA-executed projects

(i) Recommendations from subsidiary organs and sectoral bodies of the Commission

(i) Third meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance

(ii) Eighth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the African Least Developed Countries

(iii) Fifth meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Committee on Human Settlements and Environment

(iv) Tenth meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development

(v) Fourth meeting of the Regional Technical Committee for PADIS

(vi) Special meeting of African Ministers of Civil Aviation

(vii) Third meeting of the Regional Conference on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources

(viii) Fourth meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of Ten of the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Human Resources Development, Planning and Utilization

(ix) Memorandum of the Governing Council of IDEP: Future of the Institute

(x) Report of the Governing Council of IFORD

(j) Statutory issues

(i) Follow-up action on relevant resolutions adopted by the twenty-third session of the Commission and dcisions adopted by the General Assembly and ECOSOC that are of interest to Africa

a. Follow-up action on other relevant resolutions adopted by the twenty-third session of the Commission/fourteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers

b. Resolutions adopted by ECOSOC at its second regular session of 1988 and by the General Assembly at its forty-third session in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa

c. Review of recurrent publications of the Economic Commission for Africa

(ii) International Development Strategy for the fourth United Nations Development Decade

(iii) Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation, in particular to the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries

(k) Programme of work and priorities of the Commission

(i) Implementation of the 1988-1989 programme of work and priorities

(ii) Self-evaluation of programmes in ECA

(iii) Programme aspects of the 1990-1991 proposed programme budget

(iv) Proposed Medium-term Plan for the period 1992-1997

(l) International conference on popular participation in Africa's recovery and development

(m) Staff and administrative questions.

7. Report of the ninth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the African Least Developed Countries.

8. Pledging Conference for the Untied Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD)

(a) Progress report on the implementation of UNTFAD-funded projects, 1987-1989

(b) Mobilization of resources required for the biennium 1990-1991.

9. Any other business.

10. Date and venue and other matters relating to the twenty-fifth session of the Commission/sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers

11. Consideration and adoption of the report and resolutions of the meeting

12. Closure of the meeting.

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening addresses

12. Comrade Addis Tedla, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and Deputy Prime Minister, opened the twenty-fourth session of the Commission and fifteenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers. He welcomed the delegates and guests on behalf of the Government and the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and on his own behalf and wished them constructive and fruitful discussions.

13. He recounted the far-reaching measures taken by African countries to rise above the recent deterioration in economic and social conditions and noted specifically the role played by Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (APPER) and the United Nations Programme

of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD) in sensitizing the international community to assist Africa in its recovery and development efforts.

14. He stated that the prominent feature of the recovery and development process was the implementation of structural adjustment programme under the multilateral donor agencies, and that recovery was not possible without such adjustment measures. It was therefore encouraging that structural adjustment was central to the agenda of the meeting.

15. He noted, however, that a number of studies had shown that structural adjustment had failed to solve African problems. The internal and external imbalances of African problems remained unresolved. Instead, the social and political costs of those programes had worsened. He reminded the Conference of the Khartoum Conference on the Human Dimension of Africa's Economic Recovery which had pointed out that "Rather than improve the human condition, structural adjustment programmes have worsened it because they are incomplete, mechanistic and of too short a time perspective".

16. He underlined the unfavourable economic environment of the 1980s: the sharp fall in commodity prices; fluctuations in currency exchange rates; and increasing protectionism by the developed countries. Although the international community had tried to provide help with debt rescheduling, creation of special financing facilities and debt cancellation, that relief had fallen short of requirements, and in some cases debt relief was even tied to IMF/IBRD conditionalities. Consequently, despite wide-ranging reforms in most African countries, economic growth remained sluggish and living standards continued to deteriorate.

17. The theme of the Conference - Search for an African Alternative to Structural Adjustment was therefore most timely. A concrete and viable alternative to structural adjustment programmes was essential to the ongoing development dialogue with a view to addressing the underlying causes of the African crisis.

18. He highlighted some of the other items on the agenda before the Conference. With regard to the situation of food and agriculture, he observed that there had been a definite shift in favour of agricultural priority in many countries as was evident from the changes in institutional and incentive structures. He noted, however, that improved relative prices were not a panacea for an increase in productivity as other factors such as provision of public investment in infrastructure, marketing and human resources development were just as important. Environment was also a critical constraint to Africa's agriculture, and he hoped the meeting would discuss issues relating to its management, with particular reference to drought and desertification control.

19. Comrade Addis informed the Conference of the significant measures undertaken by his country to lay the foundation for sustained and long-term development, the role of agrarian reform and the creation of institutions for the participation of the people in the development process. A ten-year perspective plan had been adopted by his country. The first five years of that plan were nearing completion. He reviewed the plan's strategy and priorities and dwelt on the strategy for food self-sufficiency which was focused on surplus and potentially surplus-producing regions. The measures used included conservation and development with the expansion of irrigation.

20. In the area of institutional and constitutional development, he noted the establishment of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia as the most prominent development.

21. He pointed out that in spite of all the efforts and measures including the significant progress in the social sector, economic growth remained slow and uneven because of the recurrent drought, adverse internal factors, and the unfavourable economic environment. Indeed, the ninth Plenum had examined all those problems and had recommended far-reaching measures towards long-term economic development.

22. He finally underlined the importance of the self-reliance and self-sustaining concepts of the Lagos Plan of Action and added that people-centred development should form the centre-piece of any programme for economic development. He accordingly urged the Conference to consider the African Alternative to Structural Adjustment within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action.

23. In his message to the meeting, the Secretary-General of the United Nations referred to the various recent developments in the political scene in Africa as positive landmarks in the observed process towards the general elimination of regional conflicts and the reduction of tensions: factors that were inextricably linked to, and without which, equitable economic development and social progress could never be pursued with single-minded purpose. Much, of course, remained to be done in the political area in Africa. The objectionable system of apartheid in South Africa remained a major stumbling block to peace and progress. There was also the need for an enabling environment for the free flow and expression of all shades of opinions and ideas, for popular participation, and, above all, for the respect of the dignity and worth of the human person in accordance with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He commended in that connection, ECA's initiative to convene an international conference on Popular Participation in the Recovery and Development Process.

24. The fact remained, however, that Africa was also caught in the fresh wind of wisdom and peace that was pervading the world. He was proud that the United Nations had been closely associated with that movement and he was anxious that the gains realized in the political and military fields should be built upon to ensure that equally significant breakthroughs were brought to bear on the economic and social development process. Complete global security would never be attained and maintained for as long as two-thirds of mankind continued to be relegated to the periphery of world development. Concrete initiatives and measures needed to be taken urgently by all concerned to bring about a just and equitable international economic and social situation.

25. He was accordingly, personally gratified by the substance of the crowded agenda before the Conference since the issues that the meeting was about to consider were directly related to the possible initiatives and measures that must be taken by African Governments and peoples, individually and collectively and in partnership with the international community to bring about genuine progress. He referred specifically to the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation, in particular to the revitalization of economic growth and development of

the developing countries. The importance of that special session was anchored in the potential it had for generating the required impetus for the world community to address the diverse but interrelated problems and issues in international economic relations in the context of the prevailing positive spirit for co-operation. He expressed confidence that members of the Commission would lend their usual support to the success of the Special Session.

26. With regard to the central theme of the meeting which was the search for an African Alternative for Structural Adjustment Programmes (AA-SAP), he referred to his report of 10 August 1988 to the General Assembly at its forty-third session on the mid-term review of the implementation of UN-PAAERD in which he had stated that the implementation of structural adjustment programmes had given rise to general concerns because of their limited objectives and short-term perspectives which were viewed as being at variance with the objectives of more balanced long-term development. Not only did the General Assembly concur with that analysis, it also decided to urge that "African countries should increase their efforts in the search for a viable conceptual and practical framework for economic structural adjustment programmes in keeping with the long-term development objectives and strategies at the national, subregional and regional levels". He congratulated the Conference on accepting that challenge.

27. The Secretary-General called for an urgent breakthrough in the debt and debt-induced financial crisis facing developing countries especially those in Africa and Latin America. He also called for an immediate comprehensive re-examination of the commodity situation. He had, himself, at the request of the General Assembly, recently constituted a high-level Expert-Group on African Commodities and Export Diversification to undertake an in-depth assessment of the situation. The Group would be chaired by Sir Malcolm Fraser, former Prime Minister of Australia and it included a number of other prominent individuals.

28. He referred to the tremendous and commendable efforts that had been deployed by the African countries to honour their side of the commitment entered into with their development partners in UN-PAAERD. It was equally recognized that significant initiatives and actions had been taken by the

international community in support of African countries' own efforts. Those efforts were, however, being thwarted to a considerable extent by the continuing adverse conditions in the external economic and financial environment and consequently, possibilities for further growth and development remained seriously limited. Imaginative and decisive steps such as those spelled out in the conclusions of the mid-term review of UN-PAAERD needed, therefore, to be taken by both sides to redeem the Programme in the remainder of its term. If that were done, he was convinced that there was still a chance to regain lost ground but only if one acted quickly and promptly.

29. He highlighted the serious environmental problems that were arising in all countries particularly in Africa, and emphasized in that connection the need for strengthened international collaborative action in that area.

30. In conclusion, the Secretary-General referred to the situation in the twenty-eight least developed African countries which was of alarming dimensions in spite of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s adopted on their behalf in 1981 by the international community. Much more far-reaching national and international policies and programmes would have to be formulated and implemented to accelerate the development process in those countries during the more complex environment that would characterize the 1990s. He hoped that the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in Paris in 1990 would facilitate the reconsideration of the special problems of those countries.

31. He wished the ministers a successful meeting and looked forward to their conclusions.

32. In his statement, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa said that the twenty-fourth session of the Commission was the culmination of nine separate preparatory meetings which had immediately preceded it. Those preparatory meetings together with other sectoral ministerial meetings as well as the meetings of the policy organs of the MULPOCs constituted the basis for submitting, in an integrated and co-ordinated manner, all major issues in the field of econmic and social development to the annual session of the Commission. TEPCOW had performed admirably its task by considering thoroughly all the issues and coming up with sound recommendations and resolutions for consideration by the Conference.

33. All the preparatory meetings that took place in Addis Ababa had been successfully held because of the extremely congenial atmosphere which had been provided by the host Government. The Executive Secretary accordingly expressed, on behalf of his colleagues, and on his own behalf, sincere appreciation to His Excellency, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia, Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and President of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

34. He said that at the formal opening of the twenty-third session of the Commission which had been held in Niamey, Niger, and which had also commemorated the thirtieth anniversary of the Commission, he had posed a number of questions relating to the future of Africa, among which was "Whither Africa?". By 1989, the last year in the decade of the 1980s, he had been asking himself the same questions. That decade had been a tumultuous one; a decade of disappointed hopes and lagging economic performance all round as had been consistently documented in the ECA annual Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa. Indeed, the picture of recent economic performance in Africa as revealed by the outcome of the mid-term review and appraisal of UN-PAAERD and by the ECA Economic Report on Africa, 1989, left much to be desired. The inescapable conclusion from the available data on Africa's performance was that the decade of the 1980s had been a complete write-off in terms of the search for economic transformation and equitable and sustainable growth and development.

35. What was more worrying and therefore of greater concern was that the decade of the 1990s might be equally lost if one were to be lulled into a sense of security and complacency by the suggestion made by some that the 1980s were a model of economic performance and cumulative growth. That, however, would not happen since Africa and Africans were bound to perceive themselves not only in their own mirror of poverty and deprivation but also in the mirror and image of others, notably, those of the continents of Asia and Latin America where the stark reality of Africa's own relative economic backwardness and increasing marginalization was writ large.

36. It was already certain that the 1990s would be a decade of regional economic blocs and groups. Africa could not therefore afford to be the odd-

man out and there was thus the urgent need for the preparatory process and steps towards economic integration in Africa as well as the establishment of the African Common Market to be intensified so that the target date of the year 2000 as envisaged in the Lagos Plan of Action could be significantly advanced. South-South co-operation needed also to be enhanced and intensified. Even more immediate was the creation of the African Monetary Fund which had for long remained on the drawing board.

37. The Executive Secretary explained that preparing Africa for the decade of the 1990s must include finding a viable alternative to existing orthodox Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) in Africa. The need to replace SAPs with a new generation of adjustment programmes that would take fully into account the continent's social, political and economic realities, restore growth and facilitate the achievement of medium- and long-term development, was not only the view of ECA, but a general concern as reflected in the mid-term review of UN-PAAERD. It was in that and other respects that the adoption of the document African Alternative to Structural Adjustment Programmes (AA-SAP): A Framework for Transformation and Recovery, became particularly pertinent and crucial.

38. That Africa must adjust was an imperative necessity. But in adjusting, he said, Africa should embrace a transformational path to adjustment. It was imperative that the rehabilitation of the African economy was completed and the expansion of its productive sectors accelerated early in the 1990s. Donor support of Africa's adjustment efforts and the vigorous implementation by the international community of the compact in UN-PAAERD was in that respect particularly significant. Growth prospects in Africa had been significantly constrained by deteriorating terms of trade, inadequate resource flows, excruciating debt burdens, and weak commodity prices, as well as, by an increasingly hostile and inhospitable international environment.

39. The mid-term review of UN-PAAERD had revealed that no progress had been made in the improvement of the international trade environment in relation to commodities of interest to Africa. The establishment and operation of the Common Fund for the stabilization of prices of major third world primary export commodities had remained unimplemented, while compensation mechanisms for shortfalls in export earnings had continued to be undeveloped except for

the limited cases of the EEC/ACP/STABEX and SYSMIN systems. It was accordingly to be noted with appreciation that the Secretary-General of the United Nations had, as requested by OAU and endorsed by the General Assembly, set up a High-level Expert Group on African commodity problems with Sir Malcolm Fraser, former Prime Minister of Australia, as Chairman.

40. He referred to the impending independence of Namibia as a most welcome development. ECA looked forward to Namibia becoming soon its fifty-first member. That notwithstanding, the removal of the remaining fundamental causes of insecurity and instability in the subregion of the SADCC countries was a basic step for remedying that subregion's prevailing socio-economic predicament. There were also a number of other long-standing constraints on development which African countries needed to address as they prepared for the 1990s. He referred in that connection to the problems of inadequate transport infrastructure, low level of human resources development, lack of effective environmental management and maintenance, the poor level of agricultural research, and lack of technological breakthroughs for African staple crops.

41. The Executive Secretary asked "How far are we ourselves gearing up to the basic task of willing for ourselves an African economic miracle in the 1990s and beyond?" and, "How far are we prepared to go in enhancing and widening the margin of manoeuvrability available to us in the 1990s?". That, he said, was precisely the objective of the 1989 session of the Commission. In preparing for the 1990s, one thing was clear, and that was to ensure that Africa did not enter into the 1990s with the same economic albatrosses around its neck as it had done in the 1980s. Africa and its 600 million people were therefore, looking up to the session to give them hope in the future.

42. The Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) said that the meeting was being held at a time when Africa's problems were becoming worse and affirmed that it was time to reflect upon Africa's future. Several years after the adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, APPER, UN-PAAERD and the African Common Position on External Debt, it had become obvious that the economic situation in Africa needed a profound review.

43. The crisis facing Africa was structural in nature and Africa's failures were the result of the unsuitable development of human resources and the allocation of resources without appropriate attention being paid to the development of the priority sectors. It was up to the representatives to choose the appropriate development paths which would maximize progress without exposing their societies to the dangers of upheavals.

44. With regard to the debt problem, he said that it had continued to weigh down on African countries and had wiped out their development gains. Creditor countries should help Africa to find a solution. Initiatives had been taken and OAU was monitoring their implementation. There was a hope that such initiatives would be crowned with success at the international conference on debt proposed by OAU.

45. That Conference should not be a forum to discuss the weaknesses of African economies or to reassess the damage and frustrations suffered by its people. Rather it should consider how resources could be made available so that individual and collective action could be taken to ensure that the performance of the African economy in future years would respond to the objectives set in the OAU and United Nations programmes.

46. In conclusion, he appealed to participants to think about giving effect to the commitments in terms of methods and figures that Africa had made before the whole world to rehabilitate its economy and tackle its food problems.

47. The representative of Burundi, speaking on behalf of the Chairman of the twenty-third session of the Commission, reminded the Conference that the last meeting of the Conference of Ministers, held in Niamey, the Niger, had adopted two very important documents, namely, the Memorandum on the Contribution of the Economic Commission for Africa to the Implementation and Mid-term Review of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990: Prospects and Recommendations; and the Niamey Declaration on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Commission. The first document had been submitted to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole on the mid-term review of UN-PAAERD. The document had been examined by that Committee whose recommendations had been submitted to the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-third session. He noted that the Niamey Declaration was a very important reference document since it outlined the evolution and important achievements of ECA over the last thirty years and outlined the perspectives for the future.

48. He thanked the Executive Secretary of ECA and the secretariat for the good work accomplished between April 1988 and April 1989 and paid tribute to the secretariat for taking the initiative to prepare the document on the Search for an African Alternative to Structural Adjustment Programmes (AASAP) which had been considered by the African Ministers of Finance in Blantyre, Malawi. That was the first time Africans themselves were choosing their own solution to structural adjustment programmes. For that solution to be sustained, however, a carefully prepared and well considered document reflecting the collective attitude of African Governments was necessary. The African Governments should be able to defend that document both collectively and individually.

49. On behalf of the delegates, H. E. Mr. Abdou Rahim Mikidache, Minister of Planning, Development, Environment, Town Planning and Urban Affairs of the Comoros moved a vote of thanks to the Party, Government and People of Ethiopia for the warm and fraternal hospitality offered to all delegates.

50. He also expressed gratitude to the members of the international community present at the meeting and congratulated the members of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of their Committee.

General debate on Search for an African Alternative for Structural Adjustment Programmes (agenda item 5)

I. Review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD), and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990, (APPER)

(a) Annual Economic Report on Africa, 1989

(b) Outcome of the mid-term review of UN-PAAERD and APPER

(i) Work of the ad hoc Committee

(ii) General Assembly response.

II. Proposal for an African Alternative for Structural Adjustment Programmes (AA-SAP):

- African Alternative for Structural Adjustment Programmes consistent with long-term development objectives.

51. The Minister of Culture of Burkina Faso, speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for culture, declared that four years ago, the Heads of State and Government of OAU had established the Conference of African Ministers responsible for culture with a mandate to review all matters relating to cultural development in Africa. He emphasized that development and culture were inseparable. Available statistics and projections showed that Africa was beset with errors in conception and strategy which had resulted in unsuitable development models which were not centered on human needs and were not focused primarily on endogenous development.

52. The conclusions of the Monrovia Symposium held ten years previously had remained the basis of the conceptualization of development efforts in Africa. But those conclusions had not taken into due account the cultural dimension of development. It was becoming increasingly obvious that a nation could not develop and achieve economic transformation outside its own cultural context.

53. He pointed out that, ECA, after more than 30 years of existence and 26 years of close co-operation with OAU, should be one of the main centres of the new cultural dynamism which must characterize Africa which had contributed so much to universal civilization. He, nonetheless, commended the ECA Executive Secretary who had spared no efforts to bring about the economic decolonization of Africa and a typically African approach to development. He observed that ECA's and OAU's terms of reference and activities were complementary. Accordingly, he underlined the following specific issues which the Conference of Ministers of Culture wished to bring to the attention of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning namely, that: the cultural dimension of development should be taken into account; a cultural common market should be established as a prelude to the establishment of the African economic community and as a framework for the co-ordination, promotion,

and development of cultural industries; and a medium-term cultural development plan should be established for the period 1990-1994, which would include essential elements such as education and scientific research for development, cultural industries, trade and tourism, and inter-African cultural co-operation.

54. At the initiative of ECA, the Khartoum Declaration of March 1988 had enabled Africans to express their intention to work "towards a human-focused approach to socio-economic recovery and development in Africa". Hence, Africans should bear in mind the vital necessity of financing socio-cultural projects which were generally relegated to the background by donors and Ministers responsible for economic planning on the basis of priority criteria which were very arguable. ECA's involvement in such a relatively fresh approach to development would be crucial and would make it possible to streamline Africa's economic models by adapting them to the socio-cultural context, that is, to man.

55. The representative wondered whether African countries would be able to escape from the economic and technological trap in which they were caught if it was not realized that the cultural factor should come first in any human endeavour. There were more than glimmers of hope because cultural identity had been the catalyst of the independence struggle. Culture was also, in the dynamic sense of the word, the product of material changes which in turn became the means of deliberate action on the very same changes.

56. On behalf of his colleagues, the African Ministers for culture, he finally appealed for international co-operation with respect to development, such co-operation should be bound up with both cultural identities and economic changes.

57. The representative of the Congo in his declaration, stressed the historical importance of the fifteenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers, which also marked the tenth anniversary of the Monrovia Strategy for endogenous and self-sustaining development. The evaluation carried out five years after the Lagos Plan of Action was adopted by the OAU Heads of State and Government had concluded that progress in the implementation of the Plan had been poor. As a result, Africa had adopted the African Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER), 1986-1990, in order to speed up the implementation of the

Lagos Plan of Action. APPER had been accepted by the international community through its adoption of the United Nations Programme of Action for Africa's Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD). The evaluation carried out by the forty-third ordinary session of the United Nations General Assembly, however, had shown that little progress had been made in implementing UN-PAAERD. While African countries had made considerable efforts, the international community had not shown the necessary political will to translate those programmes into action.

58. At the same time, it was clear that the Structural Adjustment Programmes adopted in Africa with the help and support of the IMF and the World Bank had not led to the appropriate solution of the crisis. He regarded AA-SAP as an important initiative involving pertinent and complex questions, but which when enriched and developed would form an innovative alternative approach within the logical follow-up and direction of the Lagos Plan of Action. AA-SAP called upon Africans to mobilize and develop their human and natural resources efficiently, in line with the principle of collective self-reliance and self-sufficiency. It would also assist Africa to strengthen its negotiating power, because of the number of technical suggestions put forward on management and negotiation. Thus, African countries should share their experiences on negotiation and debt management. They should harmonize and co-ordinate their attitudes and expertise. In that respect, AA-SAP would lead to the strengthening of the preparatory processes for the international Conference on Africa's External Debt and would support the efforts of the contact group on debt.

59. The representative of Congo, accordingly reaffirmed and supported the African position defined in Blantyre statement adopted by the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance.

60. The representative of Guinea indicated that his government agreed with the analysis on the performance of African economies. While traditional SAPs had been successful in some countries including Guinea, they had not achieved the same results in other countries. In that respect, an evaluation should be undertaken on the underlying causes of success or of failure.

61. Guinea had achieved notable success in the implementation of its SAP, no doubt because of its considerable resources, particularly in the mining sector, but mostly because of political will. The preparation and monitoring of SAP had been institutionalized and an economic and financial co-ordination committee composed of nine Ministers including the Ministers of Planning and Finance and the Governor of the Central Bank had been set up.

62. Some adjustment programmes had failed due to several internal and external factors including poor management, the unfavourable fluctuation in the prices of commodities, and natural disasters. The AA-SAP document was a good reference framework, but it could be improved if it was amended to correct its inaccuracies and became a document for consultations and not one for confrontation. Multilateral and bilateral donors should be associated in the mobilization of the considerable resources required for the implementation of AA-SAP.

63. He called on the Conference to adopt the Memorandum of the Conference of Ministers on the financial support to the OAU Special Emergency Fund for Drought and Famine in Africa.

64. The representative of Zambia expressed his appreciation to the ECA for initiating the discussions on finding an Alternative to Structural Adjustment Programme for African countries and for producing a high quality document on the issue. He underlined the importance of those discussions for his country, which was currently implementing its own New Economic Recovery Programme (NERP) after many years of experience with orthodox structural adjustment programmes with virtually no success as far as arresting the economic decline was concerned.

65. He informed the meeting that his country's relations with the International Monetary Fund on structural adjustment, started as far back as 1976 when the balance-of-payments position deteriorated following the fall in copper prices and the first oil prices shock of 1973. Since then, Zambia had put in place many orthodox adjustment programmes. Yet, the economic situation in Zambia deteriorated and living standards fell to unacceptable levels.

66. It was against that background that the Zambian authorities decided to embark on a structural adjustment programme of their own in May 1987. The

theme of the new economic recovery programme was "growth from our own resources", which reflected the country's commitment towards self-reliance in all areas of human endeavour, and in line with the objectives of the philosophy of humanism that put man at the centre of everything. After twenty months of implementation, notable and measurable impacts had been achieved. In particular, growth had spread throughout all the major sectors of the economy namely, agriculture, industry, mining, transportation, education and health. Indeed, the performance of the food and agriculture sector was particularly good in 1988 when the overall performance of the economy increased to over 6 per cent as against just over 2 per cent in 1987. The performance also had positive effects on the external balance and the budget. The representative of Zambia emphasized the importance of good weather and increase in the price of copper in the performance.

67. As for the AA-SAP, he said that the title should be maintained since it described merely what the document was. He found AA-SAP to be a flexible framework and a reference document, which aimed at ensuring that both domestic resources and those from development partners were utilized in a manner that was productive in the short-, medium- and long-terms. He underlined that Africa should not be afraid of formulating its own economic strategies.

68. The representative of Egypt recalled his delegation's contribution to the important improvements made to the document on the proposed African Alternative to Structural Adjustment Programme during the meeting of TEPCOW and hoped that those improvements would facilitate the adoption of the document by Ministers. His delegation fully supported the framework for adjustment with transformation formulated by the secretariat; a framework whose main elements coincided with what Egypt had been implementing.

69. He reviewed Egypt's experiment on adjustment with transformation which, he said, was based on a package of policies and instruments in one framework that combined financial, monetary, investment and price policies and took into account, in both short- and long-term perspectives, not only the external environment, but also all aspects for the economic and social life of the Egyptian people. The need to achieve the maximum possible increase in local output, the need to increase self-reliance on locally-produced commodities both for export and consumption and the need to mobilize all the available capabilities and resources for development had been some of the considerations for adopting the export-led development strategy.

70. He regretted certain negative developments that had taken place in Africa during the decade of the 1980s and he called for a new spirit of international co-operation built on the basis of dialogue and consensus. Egypt was looking forward to that dialogue through the adoption of the International Development Strategy for the decade of the 1990s by the United Nations General Assembly in 1990. He expressed concern about the delay to operationalize the Common Fund for primary commodities and announced that Egypt would host the International Seminar on African Indebtedness in Cairo from 28 to 30 August 1989, which would seek means for alleviating the problems of growth and self-development in the continent. He finally expressed his delegation's satisfaction with the work done by TEPCOW concerning AA-SAP and the framework for transformation and recovery contained therein.

71. The representative of Mozambique welcomed the initiative taken by the secretariat on the important theme of the meeting and expressed his delegation's appreciation for the high quality of the documents prepared on AA-SAP.

72. He recounted the prevailing external factors such as the external debt problem, the burden of servicing such debt and adverse terms of trade which, among others, had caused many African countries to embark on economic adjustment programmes involving heavy sacrifices especially by the most vulnerable groups in society. In his country, the government had adopted the adjustment programme because it was convinced of the need for reforms. He noted however that the usual measures of currency devaluation, price decontrol and trade liberalization as well as other fiscal and monetary measures were not by themselves effective. His delegation therefore shared the views contained in the document on the need to incorporate the wider social objectives and commended the legitimate initiative to seek alternatives to the current adjustment models.

73. While the alternative model proposed by the secretariat was acceptable in essence, his delegation wondered as to its feasibility given the adverse external environment and the heavy reliance on external financing. Also, given the wide ranging measures proposed, he said his country would have to be strictly selective as to which of the measures it would give priority to during implementation. In that regard, given the historic circumstances of Mozambique, his government would give priority to food self-reliance through

strengthening the planning and statistical apparatus, public management, and to strengthening and support of the informal, subsistence, and private sectors.

74. In conclusion, he expressed support for the document on AA-SAP as a tool for dialogue and discussions with the international community and multilateral institutions and recommended that efforts be made to have the document widely disseminated and discussed in-depth especially within the various organizations in the United Nations system.

75. The representative of Sudan welcomed AA-SAP and said that it provided African governments with opportunity for reflection on African development strategies. He observed that economic development was a complex process and one which would involve economic, social and institutional transformation. For such a balanced development to come about, the full participation of the peoples who were also the ultimate beneficiaries, would need to be ensured.

76. He drew attention to three critical obstacles which he said had impeded the process of economic development in Africa. As it were, many of the approaches used in the planning process were for the most part restrictive and hence ineffective in achieving the desired objectives. The region was going through financial difficulties and many countries were saddled with civil and border conflicts. He stressed the necessity for those obstacles to be removed as a precondition for implementing AA-SAP. In that connection, he suggested that African governments should do all they could to bring to an end any form of external domination, as well as ongoing internal and border conflicts where they existed. Economic and financial management capabilities would also need to be improved with greater focus on structural transformation rather than on mere growth.

77. He pointed out that orthodox structural adjustment programmes had failed to take into proper account the human dimension of development. He called for an in-depth reconsideration of the adjustment issue and therefore felt that not only was AA-SAP a step in the right direction, it was also positive and courageous in its approach. Africa had waited for too long, but with perseverance, it could achieve its adjustment programme with a human face as embodied in AA-SAP.

78. The representative of Uganda observed that the document on AA-SAP had made far-reaching recommendations which needed to be supported by a sound theoretical framework. He pointed out that the document was not strong on theory, for instance, there were powerful theoretical arguments against devaluation and trade liberalization which were not treated in the document. He therefore urged that the theoretical and conceptual framework of the document should be substantially strengthened.

79. He pointed out that the suggestion of wise policies alone was not enough for development to take place. Resource availability was critical for accelerated development. In his view AA-SAP should include an indication of the sources of the resources apart from the alternative framework for long-term development. Otherwise, what was proposed would amount to an alternative framework rather than an alternative to SAP. He also cautioned against the impression which AA-SAP apparently gave that short-term disequilibria were unimportant and should not be addressed at all within the proposed alternative to structural adjustment programmes. He emphasized that there was need to concentrate on getting better terms out of the Bretton Woods Institutions without losing sight of the objectives of long-term structural transformation.

80. He pointed out that some of the proposals in table 5.2 of the document on AA-SAP were in part similar to those in table 5.1. For instance, removal of subventions from parastatals was tantamount to privatization as proposed by the World Bank. The objectives were the same, namely, encouraging efficient operation of economic enterprises.

81. He commended the efforts of countries which have succeeded to dispense with SAPs and pointed out that because of the continual disruption of the economic and social infrastructure in his country in the past 20 years, that country was not in a position to carry out rehabilitation programmes without foreign support.

82. The representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya stated that the theme of the Conference was appropriate and that it came up for discussion at an opportune moment, when Africa was being confronted with a host of problems thwarting its socio-economic development efforts. These problems included mounting debts, declining prices for primary commodities, and natural calamities

particularly drought and pest infestations. He pointed out that Africa's capacity to resolve those problems was dependent on concerted approaches and well-thought-out, regional development programmes reflecting the collective will of all countries in the region and promoting economic independence, co-operation and integration.

83. He observed that the current trend in international relations was the creation of economic and political blocs in the different parts of the world. Therefore, it would be in the interest of African countries to follow the same trend and form themselves into economic groupings so as to be able to defend their own interests and to get out of perennial economic dependencies. He recollected that it was the realization of that fact which had prompted his country to help create the "Union of Maghreb Countries" comprising his own country, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia, whose membership was open to any interested African countries.

84. He expressed his desire to witness the emergence of analogous economic groupings in other parts of the region and congratulated the Executive Secretary for the useful work the ECA had done on AA-SAP which in the main embodied the thrust of his country's development strategies which were human-faced and based on indigenous capabilities supplemented by manpower from other African and Arab countries. He hoped that AA-SAP would be enriched by the novel and constructive comments of various African experts and serve as a tool for attaining the region's common development objectives.

85. The representative of Benin congratulated the ECA Executive Secretary for having diligently and skillfully conducted all the initiatives that had led to the important and long-awaited document on AA-SAP, and, in that respect, expressed his appreciation to him for always being ready to provide assistance and to his staff for the inestimable work they had carried out. He thanked the participants for electing his country as rapporteur of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

86. AA-SAP was an eloquent response to the expectations of the international community and of Africa and was evidence that Africa had remained alert and well aware of the nature of its woes and of the most appropriate solutions to an unprecedented economic and financial crisis. That crisis was mainly

characterized by a widespread deterioration in the terms of trade. It was also a crisis of the structures and economic mechanisms inherited from the colonial period. It was compounded by the fragmentation of African economies and markets, and therefore, was not simply a result of poor management of African economies.

87. The structural adjustment programmes adopted by African countries under the auspices of the IMF and the World Bank and in agreement with the international community had not always been suited to the specific context of each African country. Furthermore, their implementation had often brought in its wake an adverse backwash which hit the most disadvantaged sections of society hardest.

88. He welcomed the initiative taken by African countries to seek a more flexible framework for the structural adjustment of their economies that took into account their growth requirements and their social and economic development. AA-SAP was not a structural adjustment programme as such but a framework that would lead to the design of programmes that were better adapted to the realities and specific situation of each country. However, the implementation of such new programmes should meet the following criteria : (a) the need to correct imbalances at national level in the short-term; and (b) the need to maintain ties of co-operation with IMF and the World Bank so as to secure their assistance in efforts by African countries to mobilize resources from the international community.

89. He gave a brief account of the current experience in his country as part of negotiations for a structural adjustment programme to be implemented during the period 1989-1991 with the assistance of the World Bank and the IMF. He indicated that a national standing committee had been set up to carry out such negotiations. The programme had put emphasis on investment, education, health and other social forces all of which were in comformity with the requirements of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos.

90. If Africa was to compete internationally in the 1990s, economic integration must be sought through the effective implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos. In that respect, he suggested that the ECA secretariat and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity

should jointly canavass member States and the Conference of Heads of State and Government to popularize the AA-SAP and embark upon action to implement the Final Act of Lagos.

91. The representative of the Central African Republic recalled that his country had been one of the first countries to have concluded stabilization agreements with the IMF. He remarked that economic bankruptcy, following 14 years of disastrous resource management, had led the authorities to establish rehabilitation, stabilization and adjustment programmes with the agreement of the international community, particularly the IMF and the World Bank.

92. He said that the results had been rather disappointing as there had been a deepening spiral of recession in economic activity. There was need to break with the past and in that regard, he welcomed the AA-SAP as a framework that was likely to be more effective than the traditional programmes. He underlined the need to have a common position on the document since that was indispensable for the negotiations with donors.

93. He shared the concern of other representatives for a more detailed macro-economic framework for the AA-SAP and requested that a time frame be incorporated to reflect the dynamic nature of economic development. In its present form and in spite of certain amendments, AA-SAP did not set out adequately the applicability of certain measures such as the establishment of multiple exchange rate systems and direct import controls, on which the Ministers of Finance had requested more in-depth studies. Experience showed that direct control over exchange rates and imports usually gave rise to parallel markets, which by definition escaped the control of local authorities.

94. Finally, on the subject of the measures to be avoided in applying AA-SAP, the representative indicated that only market interest rates would lead to the efficient allocation of financial resources, but that did not exclude the promotion of priority development activities by means of subsidies. He added that only a high level of interest rates on loans would lead to sufficiently attractive deposit rates to encourage domestic savings, while ensuring the development of the banking system. He ended by drawing the attention of the Conference to the risks of excessive central control which would lead to an inefficient allocation of already limited resources.

95. The representative of Sierra Leone stated that the problem of structural adjustment was a very familiar one. Many of the issues were recurring and were sufficiently documented in the literature. However, there were certain aspects which required critical examination. It was, for instance, the tendency for the structural adjustment programmes to be started only when a country was literally bankrupt. In most adjustment programmes, emphasis was usually put on unsuitable structures and when the programmes failed, it was the Government which was to blame.

96. He stated that while there were differing claims regarding the success or failure of the programmes, a close examination of the success cases revealed that there was a gap between the claims and the actual experiences of the people. He pointed out that agencies like UNICEF had already expressed concern with the effects of structural adjustment on vulnerable population groups such as children, mothers and the low income groups. The suffering experienced and the deterioration of social conditions were unavoidable because the implementation of the programmes to solve problems which were long-term in nature was compressed into too short a period. Furthermore, the programmes were invariably accompanied by large devaluations. The net effect was that the economies became uncontrollable, black markets developed and adjustment programmes were eventually abandoned. In spite of all that, the institutions which formulated the programmes insisted that the Government alone was responsible.

97. He pointed out that the existence of common and similar factors between countries reporting success and those reporting failure called for close scrutiny of the structural adjustment experience. In that connection, he stated that it appeared that it was the countries ruled by military governments which had reported success, since in those countries strikes and demonstrations were often not possible. On the other hand, civilian regimes had to contend with strikes. Consequently they were often compelled by massive social pressures to abandon their programmes.

98. It was clear that it was not possible to transfer the programmes wholesale from country to country. He stressed, therefore, that there was a need to take into account individual peculiarities of each country in the formulation and implementation of the adjustment programmes.

99. He finally stressed that it was essential to identify the common and similar elements in each success or failure story and to use them as the basis for negotiation towards developing sustainable adjustment programmes. Such programmes would for individual countries become sustainable only if the social, political and labour milieu of each country were given careful and proper consideration in the formulation and implementation of the adjustment programme through its turbulent first few years.

100. The representative of Lesotho deplored the fact that, despite their ongoing adjustment efforts, African countries had still not succeeded in overcoming their development problems. Along with other previous speakers, he expressed the view that something must be done to redress the situation.

101. He acknowledged that conventional structural adjustment programmes had short-term objectives and did not take into account the possible adverse social effects. However, adjustment was inevitable and it must be considered in the same way that sick people needed medicine. What was required was sound conceptual and practical framework with consideration for popular participation and other social concerns expressed in such important documents as the Abuja Statement and the Khartoum Declaration. Such programmes should be implemented with the assistance of the Bretton-Woods Institutions, UNDP and UNICEF. He then briefed the Committee on the experience of his country which in 1986 had to embark on the design and implementation of a structural adjustment programme aimed at expanding the production base and reducing the budget deficit which had become precarious since revenue was based mainly on customs receipts and workers' transfers. The measures were drastic. Unfortunately, since the experience was short, and one could say whether the results were positive or negative, it would be too early to share the experience with other countries.

102. With respect to the AA-SAP, he recalled the recommendations of the Blantyre Statement of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance and emphasized that while he agreed with the thrust of the document, he was of the opinion that a lot of studies would still have to be done and a lot of wide-ranging consultations carried out. He congratulated the secretariat on the good work done. However, it was a job well-done that still required more work. The draft before the Conference was the beginning and not the end. Moreover, he supported the proposal of the representative of Guinea that the title of the document should be changed to "Search for African Alternative to Structural Adjustment: A Framework for Recovery and Transformation."

103. The representative of Côte d'Ivoire thanked and congratulated the ECA Executive Secretary, his colleagues and the member States concerned for having taken the welcome initiative of positive action in the search for an African solution to the problems facing African countries. He hoped that the meeting would result in practical conclusions capable of leading to appropriate solutions to the burning and worrying problems of the African continent. In that respect, he was very appreciative of the address given by the Executive Secretary and entirely shared his concerns for Africa in the 1990s.

104. After recalling that his country had chosen to open its economy to the outside world at independence, the representative reviewed the development of the world economy since 1960 and its repercussions on his country's economy. During the 1960s and 1970s, which had generally been characterized by economic stability, Côte d'Ivoire and its partners had benefited equitably. That had been reflected in relatively high national economic growth rates. The decade of the 1980s, however, had brought profound economic changes, due to an international economy obeying no discernible rules, and they had necessitated the hasty implementation by African States of policies of adjustment and readjustment, doing a balancing act designed to restore equilibrium and find their way back to healthy, sustained and durable growth. The initiative taken by ECA in drawing up the document on AA-SAP was, therefore, opportune.

105. He went on to make comments and suggestions on improving the document, which he thought constituted an important technical work in which he expressed prime interest. His observations centred on policy instruments and the measures proposed within the framework of the AA-SAP; the problems of finance arising from their implementation; market problems; the choice of agricultural, rural and industrial policies; the insufficient analysis contained in the document on the subject of the search for full employment; the maximum and optimum development of resources, the deterioration in the terms of trade; and the external debt. Those last two aspects had a direct effect on the level of financial resources available to African States. In conformity with the need to improve the document, he suggested that complementary activity be carried out to establish a hierarchy in the policy instruments and measures proposed; to evaluate their costs by outlining possible ways of funding and

potential returns, and to verify the agreement and commitment of the partners. Referring to the contents of the document, he said that it would be more appropriate to call it "African contribution to improving structural adjustment programmes" because the AA-SAP was not a clear substitute for classical structural adjustment programmes.

106. The representative stressed the need for Africa to develop intra-African trade and to prepare itself properly to penetrate the "European Market of post 1992". Accordingly, he proposed that the following measures for action: improvement of the equitableness and viability of the market for basic products, assistance in the development of policies aimed at avoiding debts arising from stagnation and depression and creating employment as well as strengthening of African economic and trade co-operation.

107. In conclusion, he indicated that he found the statements of the Secretaries-General of the OAU and the United Nations, reassuring particularly that they had both highlighted the common destiny of mankind and the need for finding a just solution to the problems associated with commodities. In addition, he welcomed at the meeting the presence of representatives of the international community. Such a presence demonstrated a dynamic and lively partnership and the conviction that the countries of the world were interdependent. Obviously, the development of the immense resources of Africa would contribute to increasing the well-being of all the inhabitants of the planet.

108. The representative of Kenya said that his delegation supported the analytical framework of AA-SAP for many reasons which he believed all delegations should bear in mind. First, while the conventional structural adjustment programmes recommended harsh measures even when some variables might not hold and some of the proposed solutions were not applicable because of the fundamental social, economic and political structures of the countries of the region, AA-SAP had introduced an imaginative concept namely transformation. It also made a distinction between development and growth and stressed the need for integrating short-term objectives and measures into the long-term perspective. He emphasized that since the development process was complex, one needed an environment that encouraged transformation in which attention would be paid to adjustment and maladjustment, adjustment and transformation. In that connection, the importance of time must always be borne in mind.

109. The representative then took up the question of resources for implementation which a number of representatives had raised. While he shared the view that resources were important, he was of the opinion, that that should not be made the first condition. A well-designed framework for action was likely to attract support from donors. Therefore what was important was first to put into programmes what were thought and wanted to be done. Hence, in the light of the points he had given, he whole-heartedly supported AA-SAP.

110. The representative of Angola first thanked the Government of Ethiopia for its hospitality and warm welcome and congratulated the ECA Executive Secretary on the excellent work that had been carried out, which had led to an in-depth consideration of the problems affecting the continent. He reminded the Conference that the absence of the use of the Portuguese language in the meeting had not made it possible for the members of his delegation to participate effectively.

111. He reviewed the economic and social situation in the Southern African subregion in the context of the geo-political and strategic importance of that subregion. He underlined Angola's solidarity with the brotherly African peoples of Namibia and those of South Africa and emphasized that the destabilization acts of the South African regime had aggravated the economic crisis facing Angola.

112. With respect to his country, he said that a programme of economic stabilization had been adopted to correct the disruptions and distortions in the economy and the Government was preparing for the post-war situation. He appealed to ECA and to other international organizations to join in that economic effort by assisting in the execution of development projects established within the framework of that programme.

113. The representative of Guinea-Bissau congratulated the Economic Commission for Africa and its Executive Secretary for having taken the initiative to prepare and present the document on AA-SAP which was important and relevant in view of the critical economic situation facing African countries. He hailed the message of the African Ministers for culture and said that he totally endorsed its contents.

114. His delegation supported the overall aspects of the document which critically and objectively analysed the economic situation of African countries. He then dwelled on some aspects of AA-SAP particularly the State's role in the economy and the need to democratize African societies. With respect to the role of the State, it should continue to co-ordinate and give an impetus to development policies or objectives by managing and controlling plans and programmes and ensuring the involvement of all economic agents including those of the private sector. In view of the situation in African countries, the democratization proces might be very slow even if it had a crucial role to play in the development and transformation of the socio-economic system.

115. AA-SAP required the political will of African States as that was its only guarantee of success. It was regrettable that AA-SAP had not given sufficient attention to the specific conditions of national economies, the under-development of human resources, the terms imposed by the international economy and the role of international institutions in an increasingly interdependent world. In that regard, he hailed the initiative of UNDP for having undertaken, the UNSGAP exercises in close collaboration with some African governments.

116. Although the framework proposed in AA-SAP was correct as far as design was concerned, it seemed relatively ambitious, difficult to implement and its proposals could be implemented only in the medium- and long-terms in view of factors such as the debt burden and shortage of financial resources. The implementation of AA-SAP assumed that there were adequate administrative, institutional, technical and financial capacities. He recommended that the document's objectives should be more modest and restricted so as to have a greater chance of success within an acceptable time frame.

117. After reviewing the objectives and performances of traditional structural adjustment programmes, he stressed their limitations and the need for African countries to formulate strategies with macro-economic, sectoral and regional objectives and policies bearing in mind the financing requirements of the economy.

118. The representative of Nigeria hailed AA-SAP as representing a bold, immaginative and positive response to correct the fundamental distortions that had, for some time, plagued African economies. He indicated that the findings of AA-SAP had conclusively shown that conventional structural adjustment programmes currently undertaken by many African countries had failed to take into account the social and human dimensions in Africa's development, as well as the development objectives contained in the LPA, APPER and the UN-PAAERD. African countries as a matter of necessity, would need to adopt and undertake an African-centred structural adjustment programme which would adequately take care of the social, political and economic particularities of the African economic system. Consequently, he regarded AA-SAP as a move in the right direction.

119. He underscored the need for effective management and administration of the implemenentation of the prescriptions and recommendations contained in AA-SAP; otherwise, he warned, those measures could create their own distortions in the economy. To that end, he pointed out that while no government should allow its economy to be controlled entirely by market forces without any form of political or administrative control, the Nigerian experience in the implementation of SAPs had shown that excessive administrative controls generally tended to breed corruption and inefficiency in the economy. A balance of public intervention and allowance for the play of market forces was therefore necessary to cancel out distortions.

120. He reminded the Conference that AA-SAP was not an adjustment programme in itself. It was rather a framework to be used by African governments as a basis for designing and holding negotiations for adjustment programmes. The document was appropriate as a guide particularly, since the world we lived in was a dynamic one, and the process of structural adjustment was a continuous process. AA-SAP was also regarded as appropriate because of its emphasis on self-sufficiency and the human and social dimensions of development.

121. He concluded by urging member States to make every effort to sell AA-SAP to the international community for endorsement. That would give AA-SAP a certificate of credibility and make it acceptable to the international community since that community was also expected to assist African States in their adjustment process.

122. The representative of the Kingdom of Morocco expressed his appreciation to the Executive Secretary and his colleagues in the secretariat for the excellent thinking they had gone into the preparation of the document on AA-SAP. The meeting was taking place at a crucial time in the evolution of Africa's economy. Its theme demonstrated an awareness of the structural challenges that must be taken into account if the geographical, demographic and social bases of growth were to be laid and genuine, self-sustaining, national and interregional development achieved.

123. After reviewing the main characteristics of the African crisis, he observed that the persistence and worsening of the crisis had made it necessary to develop short-term stabilization and adjustment programmes designed to restore both internal and external balances. However, in spite of such programmes, the crisis had continued to be just as serious. Even though in some countries, traditional SAPs had resulted in the achievement of internal and external balances, the seriousness of the crisis and the difficulties in implementing traditional SAPs provided justification for the substance of AA-SAP. The document had described clearly those structural problems of the African economy which were responsible for Africa's underdevelopment.

124. The objectives in AA-SAP were human-focused. Ways were to be found to alleviate poverty and improve the welfare of the African people and to institute a self-sustaining process of economic growth and development, based on popular participation and the integration of African economies. Morocco was already working in that direction because its planning was based on a flexible and pragmatic vision which was being pursued within the context of a strategy centred on the people and the satisfaction of their basic needs. Top priority was accorded to rural development with a view to sharing the social benefits of economic growth more equitably and improving both the living and working conditions of rural people. Priority was also given to the promotion of small and medium-scale enterprises not only because of their positive impact on the distribution of the benefits of growth and job creation, but also in terms of their power to stimulate and revitalize the private sector.

125. Morocco's development strategy had been based on a policy of: (a) adjustment and rehabilitation, taking into account the minimum growth requirements for

meeting the basic needs of the people and improving both internal and external macro-economic balances; and (b) mobilization of the resources needed for economic growth through the development of public and private savings, the mobilization of external resources and the rational allocation of such resources through the rigorous application of project selection criteria.

126. The representative concluded by referring to two recent successes in the economic integration field. One was the establishment of the Maghreb Arab Union, and the other was the completion by Morocco of its section of the Tangier-Lagos Highway. The establishment of such infrastructures facilitated the integration of African economies. Similarly, Morocco was continuing the studies for the establishment of a permanent link between Europe and Africa through the Strait of Gibraltar.

127. The representative of Senegal stated that the document entitled "African Alternative to Structural Adjustment Programmes" was a means by which the Senegalese authorities could respond to the overall question of appropriate adjustment.

128. Since the classical adjustment policies carried out in some African countries had shown their limitations, by not being able to mitigate the social effects of the austerity measures on the most vulnerable sections of the population, it would be easy to reject them. Such a rejection, however, risked the neglect of one essential consideration: that the adjustment policies were designed for the medium-term and that before they were implemented, each country was aware that there would be costs attached to such adjustments. It was, therefore, up to the African countries and their partners to study the accompanying measures necessary to mitigate the negative effects.

129. AA-SAP certainly offered a wider development perspective than that of the classical structural adjustment programmes. In that sense, AA-SAP constituted a special framework for dialogue with Africa's partners. Individually, the African countries had not the strength to combat the current economic crisis. Only by co-operating with each other could they negotiate on an equal footing with the developed countries. However, the movement towards market integration had been very inadequate. In order to improve the situation, ECA needed the constant support of African States particularly with regard to the reinforcement and wider spread of MULPOC activities in order to make them more efficient instruments for the promotion of economic integration in the different subregions of Africa.

130. With regard to Africa's external debt, he said that the traditional methods used to alleviate the problem such as rescheduling were no longer suitable since they postponed the problem. There was urgent need for a comprehensive long-term solution since the implementation of programmes within the framework of AA-SAP required considerable financial resources, which Africa could not currently generate. Thus, the assistance of external partners must be increased. In conclusion, he said that African development should be carried out by the Africans themselves. That development was however, the concern of every one and called for the participation of all, including that of the developed countries.

131. The representative of Togo first stated that he shared the opinions expressed by the Secretary-General of the OAU in his opening address on the development problems of Africa. He recalled that it was the need to speed up the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action that had led the Heads of State and Government to adopt Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, (APPER) in 1985. That programme had been endorsed in June 1986 by the United Nations General Assembly in the form of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD), by which the international community undertook to support economic and social development efforts in Africa.

132. Four years after the adoption of APPER, and in spite of the economic reforms undertaken by most countries to revitalize growth, the continent's economic and social situation was still alarming. Both the successes and set-backs marking economic and social history showed that economic development problems could only be tackled properly if they were treated within an overall framework, which was more likely to generate the necessary action, solidarity and coherence. Thus, the search for an African framework for structural adjustment programmes, centred as it was, on man as both the initiator and beneficiary of development, was a very commendable initiative on the part of the ECA secretariat.

133. Togo had been very quick to implement financial stabilization and structural adjustment programmes under the pressure of constraints in the world economy, particularly the fall in the market price for the country's

principal export products. The objectives of those programmes were to: balance public finances by seeking to increase revenues and decrease expenses; restructure the public enterprises sector; meet the State's external commitments; improve public investment programming and give priority to rural development and maintenance; and institute administrative and institutional reforms as a basis for sustained economic revitalization.

134. In spite of those programmes, however, Togo had experienced a drop in household income, an increase in unemployment and an acute shortage of public resources. He stressed that the AA-SAP, which took into account all long-term development aspects, represented a framework within which African countries could consider and negotiate with the Bretton-Woods Institutions. He observed, however, that there would be difficulties in implementing certain proposals shown in table 5.2, of the document on AA-SAP notably measures A.6, B.2, C.5 and D.6 and suggested further analysis of certain concepts in order to make them more credible.

135. The representative of the Comoros indicated that AA-SAP was a step forward in trying to define an African alternative to the structural adjustment programmes supported by the Bretton-Woods Institutions. However, it had come late since many African countries had already embarked on IMF-sponsored programmes starting in 1980. Moreover, it was not a response to short-term problems. It was a framework for reflection. Therefore the document should be improved so as to make it a common document that could be used for negotiations with donors both bilateral and multilateral including the Bretton-Woods Institutions.

136. For AA-SAP to become an effective instrument for recovery and economic social development, it must include science and technology. It was through research and the exploitation of research findings that Asian countries had been able to build modern and dynamic economies. Africa had to learn from the experience of other continents. Similarly, economic co-operation and integration were crucial for overcoming the African crisis and bring about economic development. Therefore AA-SAP should also address the imperative need to strengthen subregional economic groupings. In general, more technical studies still needed to be undertaken.

137. The management of public finances and enterprises was not stringent enough. Yet improvement in such management was important for the transformation of African economies. That was why structural adjustment programmes supported by the World Bank and the IMF were usually introduced so as to correct the situation. However, the external environment was still harsh. Commodity prices had fallen, the burden of external debt had increased, and donors had not responded. Therefore, all those problems and the adverse social effects of structural adjustment programmes should be properly addressed.

138. The representative of Algeria recalled the conditions generally laid down by the IMF and the World Bank to African countries undertaking stabilization and structural adjustment programmes and said that none of the measures prescribed had demonstrated their effectiveness in the context of African economies. Although Algeria had not gone to IMF for assistance it had nevertheless followed with considerable interest the experiences of other countries which varied greatly from one country to the other. However, in order to stabilize and restructure its economy, Algeria had imposed on itself an adjustment programme which was continuously adjusted to meet both domestic and external conditions and markets. The central aspects of the Algerian reforms whose requirements were stricter than those normally demanded by the IMF and the World Bank were reforms of the public sector, management and industries, the reduction of the sizes of enterprises, and the granting of autonomy to them with respect to decisions about production, investment, and finance.

139. Administrations and ministries had been relieved of their supervisory role with respect to the enterprises which had regained absolute autonomy in all areas particularly recruitment, production, expansion, direct relations with domestic and external partners and investments.

140. The economic reorganization programme had yielded positive results and had had repercussions on how the State itself was run. Thus, the State's capital budget was currently more than its operational budget. The reforms implemented had enabled Algeria to avoid going to IMF which had itself admitted that the country's rehabilitation programme was more rigorous than the IMF itself could have imposed. The only difference was that the Algerian programme

had been conceived and prepared by the public authorities alone and not in consultation with IMF and the World Bank.

141. He noted that there were over 100 million under-nourished people in Africa in 1989. For ten years the standard of living had progressively declined and currently stood at three quarters of the 1970 level. The contintent's debt, which had stood at $US 40 billion in 1980, had increased to $US 240 billion in 1987. He wondered whether the injection of money had had any beneficial effect on Africa. In the face of an increasingly hostile international economic environment, most African countries had embarked upon extremely bold economic reforms under structural adjustment programmes. Without trying to deny or belittle the few improvements that structural adjustment programmes had produced on balance of payments, export growth or the reduction in the public deficit, it was difficult to overlook their limitations with respect to economic, social and political issues. He accordingly supported AA-SAP as a credible alternative to SAPs and called upon the relevant development authorities to familiarize themselves with its contents.

142. As far as the external environment was concerned, there was need for the prices of commodities to be stabilized. In that connection, he appealed to member States to act jointly in the negotiations going on within Uruguay Round. Similarly, there was need for solidarity in ensuring that the proposed OAU international conference on Africa's external debts was held.

143. The representative of Zaire indicated that his country had a long and diversified experience in traditional structural adjustment programmes. Following the various structural adjustment programmes concluded in 1986 and 1987, Zaire had been among the first countries to denounce the adverse effects of those programmes in the social sector. Zaire was currently negotiating with the World Bank for structural adjustment programmes aimed at correcting distortions in the social sector and at strengthening ongoing programmes in education and health, employment and income distribution, in a nutshell, by taking into account the human factor which was at the

centre of the AA-SAP. The AA-SAP should be a genuine frame of reference for negotiation and not for confrontation with Africa's partners.

144. However, the success of AA-SAP would depend on two main factors: (a) at the international level, if Africa's partners in development showed the flexibility and comprehension which were essential to the vitality of AA-SAP; and (b) at the African level, if all necessary arrangements were made to use AA-SAP as a negotiating instrument between African countries and their partners. In the opinion of Zaire, the AA-SAP was a bold step in the right direction, given the increasingly hostile external economic environment.

145. The representative of Burundi first congratulated ECA for having given an opportunity to African ministers responsible for development and planning to discuss such an important issue as structural adjustment which was vital for the future of most of the countries of the region.

146. In 1986, Burundi had adopted a structural adjustment programme based on economic and financial reforms whose main objectives had been the recovery of its economy. He gave a brief account of the results achieved.

147. With regard to public finance, in spite of some imbalances that still existed, the budget deficit had been reduced and there had been better control in the management of public resources. Public enterprises were becoming more efficient and at that time were requiring less subsidies. Instead, they had started to contribute to the national budget through the distribution of dividends.

148. The trade balance was however still deep in deficit due to the low prices for coffee, the main export crop. Furthermore, the devaluation of the currency, the liberalization of imports and price deregulation which were supposed to give a competitive edge to local products had not as yet produced the results expected. The private sector which was expected to replace the declining public sector had yet to assert itself.

149. The representative said that in general, the overall performance of structural adjustment programmes had indicated that the measures adopted were mostly aimed at short-term stabilization and emphasized that it was

absolutely necessary to integrate them into long-term development programmes. In that respect, it was necessary to concentrate on such key issues as increase in productive investments, diversification of the economy, the creation of new productive sectors such as industry, maintaining and improving food and nutritional balances, and continued satisfactory development in the social sector.

150. Finally, the representative indicated that he supported the initiative of preparing the AA-SAP which was a frame of reference for the preparation of better adjustment programmes. AA-SAP could enable new candidates for structural adjustment to avoid past errors if it took into account social dimension of development and the promotion of the private sector in adjustment programmes.

151. The representative of Botswana congratulated the secretariat for its continuous search for solutions to Africa's development problems. He observed that many ideas had been put forward to give AA-SAP the stature and credibility it deserved and expressed his delegation's endorsement of the proposals. Botswana had not yet undertaken any structural adjustment programmes with the World Bank and the IMF since the country's sound economic policies, supported with resources from the booming mineral sector had helped produce an economic miracle.

152. He explained that his country had, within the context of the six-year national development plans, tried to identify emerging issues in advance. A slow down in the growth of the economy was, however, likely in the future. His Government's energies would, therefore, be focused on policies and programmes to further stimulate the growth and diversification of the productive sectors which were bound not to be contributing sufficiently to maintain the growth of the economy.

153. He finally welcomed AA-SAP for opening new horizons and for the help it could give his country in strengthening and deepening the process of economic growth if it had to be applied.

154. The representative of Gabon said that his country had taken a keen interest in AA-SAP since it was the ideal framework including approaches and guidelines for the transformation and recovery of African economies.

The issue was very important and in that respect, his delegation commended the ECA secretariat for its efforts to find solutions to the development problems of the African continent. Those efforts had resulted in the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, the UN-PAAERD and currently the AA-SAP.

155. He paid tribute to the Ministers of Finance for the declaration made at Blantyre, Malawi, which was one of the most important contributions to the improvement of the document on AA-SAP. Traditional stabilization and adjustment programmes in Africa had failed to achieve the expected results and there was therefore a need to prepare an alternative framework for structural adjustment which would take into account Africa's structural characteristics and development objectives as contained in the Lagos Plan of Action and endorsed by the UN-PAAERD. The fundamental rule in adjustment and strucutural transformation in Africa was national and collective self-sufficiency and the satisfaction of basic human needs.

156. In reviewing the main principles of AA-SAP, the representative highlighted some shortcomings. He referred, in particular, to science and technology because of the crucial impact which they could have on the economic performance of African States in the face of international competition. The AA-SAP was seeking alternative mechanisms, the African way, for the transformation of economic and social conditions on the continent although its implementation was still to be worked out since AA-SAP was only a frame of reference for the preparation of more adequate structural adjustment programmes. In that respect, it was important to improve the framework.

157. The observer for France said that on the whole, Africa's economic situation gave cause for concern particularly in the face of the prevailing global economic recovery. Structural adjustment programmes were not a panacea; indeed, they often overlooked the human factor, the long-term and specific national characteristics. However, despite their inherent limitations, it would be unfair to portray SAPs as scapegoats. Such programmes were the product of the crisis. They did not themselves produce the crisis. The programmes had succeeded in rallying domestic and external initiatives and resources around specific problems. However, his Government appreciated Africa's impatience with SAPs.

158. The African Alternative to Structural Adjustment Programmes was a message addressed not only to African countries but also to the international community. While the document had many strong points, its weaknesses concerned mainly the fact that the modalities for its implementation were not clear. The world being what it was, it would be difficult to present as an alternative solution something that was rather a frame of reference or a framework for negotiations.

159. He provided some figures on trends in Franco-African co-operation and said that French official development assistance was more than FF 28 billion in 1988 or 0.5 per cent of the GDP of France; bilateral assistance had accounted for 74.3 per cent of that figure and multilateral aid 25.7 per cent. The grant portion had represented 80 per cent of aid in general, and 90 per cent of aid to LDCs. French assistance to African countries had been stable because of the consensus in political circles and in French public opinion on the subject. As far as the external debt of African countries was concerned, he stressed his country's commitment to the search for a comprehensive solution to the problem and informed the Conference that the issue would be raised again at the Summit of industrialized countries to be held in Paris on 14 July 1989.

160. On the question of the environment and transborder movement of toxic wastes, he called on African countries to support the appeal of the Hague international meeting which had recognized the principle of just and equitable assistance and co-operation machineries for those countries which would suffer from abnormal or particular constraints as a result of the decisions taken.

161. The observer for the Netherlands recalled the concerns expressed at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for economic development and planning about Africa's gloomy prospects and the heavy sacrifices resulting from structural adjustment. However, the news that emerged in 1989 indicated that there was some hope. Further, the UN-PAAERD mid-term review had also provided some hope as it demonstrated an awareness of the necessary changes and the shared responsibility of the donor and recipient countries.

162. He stated that his country was aware of the political, economic and social tensions emanating from structural adjustment. However, those problems were shortlived and necessary for restoring economies on long-term basis. His country supported structural adjustment programmes which were long-term in nature. However, while it endorsed the principle that sustainable economic growth was a prerequisite, his country was aware that it was not sufficient for balanced economic growth.

163. He elaborated on the purposes and mechanisms of structural adjustment and emphasized the need for a parallel flow of resources during the adjustment implementation stage so as to maintain investment in infrastructure and to preserve the provision of basic social services. That called for tight donor co-ordination to ensure the flow of donor money and to prevent its utilization on activities outside the structural adjustment programme.

164. The planning of structural adjustment programmes had to take into account the individual peculiarities of the countries concerned and consideration given to longer periods of adjustment within which there would be a series of short-term programmes. Further, the programmes had to be formulated such that the duration of the various measures would be in consonance one with the other. The negative effects on the most vulnerable population groups had also to be planned for. Preparatory activities which would include a limited set of conditions and installments had also to be planned for. Such an approach, he said, would increase the effectiveness of the adjustment programmes.

165. He reviewed Africa's debt problem and stressed the need for donor co-ordination. He took note of the results of the Special Programme of Action for Africa (SPA) in the field of debt relief, and explained that his Government would continue to support SPA. He then observed that although the increase in ODA funds had been disappointing, the flow of funds to Africa and its qualitative aspects had increased, due, primarily to increased donor co-ordination. In that context discussions on donor effective co-ordination would remain crucial. He was of the opinion that the World Bank report "Beyond adjustment: toward sustainable growth with

equity in sub-saharan Africa" which was still under preparation would play an important role in such discussions and expressed his Government's view that the Economic Commission for Africa, on account of its mandate, had to be an important participant in those discussions.

165. Finally, he applauded African governments for their efforts, courage and wisdom and re-affirmed that his Government would continue to give high priority to aid programmes for Africa within its policy of development co-operation.

167. The observer for the Economic Community of the Great Lakes countries (CEPGL) thanked the Executive Secretary for having invited CEPGL to take part in the Conference. The invitation illustrated the close co-operation between ECA and CEPGL. The meeting whose theme was "African Economic Recovery and Development: Search for an African Alternative for Structural Adjustment" was being held at a critical period in the history of the African continent, which was characterized by the continued deterioration of its social and economic situation in spite of the laudable efforts made and initiatives taken by African countries including adoption and implementation of structural adjustment programmes.

168. The impact of structural adjustment programmes on the economic co-operation and integration process at the regional and subregional levels in Africa had been much more negative for intergovernmental organizations engaged in economic integration because, in spite of political commitment of the States members of those groupings, they had not received sufficient support from the international community and in particular from international financial institutions.

169. The difficulties of the integration process had been compounded by the effects of structural adjustment programmes. The measures imposed on adjusting the States, in terms of the considerable reduction of public spending in general and external financial commitments in particular, had resulted in a reduction of integration activities and even the suspension of entire programmes.

170. Import liberalization measures and the revision of customs tariffs contained in the structural adjustment programmes were not only

jeopardizing national and subregional enterprises but had also undermined the impact of clearing and other arrangements. In the medium term, many agreements and protocols had been entered into in order to strengthen the integration process but those relating in particular to the establishment of preferential trade areas would be gradually undermined and the establishment of an African community would be compromised.

171. The observer for the USSR said that on the eve of the 1990s, the world economy and international economic relations continued to be characterized by considerable instability and imbalances while the socio-economic situation in many developing countries, including those in Africa, was deteriorating. It was therefore evident that the existing pattern of international economic relations needed to be improved on the basis of both the objective laws of world economic development and equal economic security.

172. He laid particular emphasis on the legitimate rights of African countries to map out their own path to development. He observed that the structural adjustment measures prescribed by the IMF and the World Bank were not effective cures to the countries' socio-economic ills. Those measures, had instead produced deleterious consequences in political and social spheres. He referred to ECA's initiative on AA-SAP, and indicated that Africa's socio-economic development would be realized through an optimal combination of public and private sector strategies, free from externally-imposed economic formulae. He underlined the importance of mobilizing all available resources, and the involvement of all forms of ownership in the course of development so that the economy was based on the optimum combination of public, co-operative, mixed and private sectors which would take into account specific political, economic and historical realities.

173. The Soviet Union, he said, had always, and would continue to oppose the imposing of alien models of economic growth on the developing countries and it was in that context that it stood for the introduction and strengthening of international guarantees for the free choice, by each country, without external interference, of socio-economic systems for self-determination.

174. The use of embargoes, boycotts, trade, credit and other means of economic coercion, let alone the utilization of the United Nations mechanism for the purpose of serving someone's political ambitions should not be tolerated in a civilized international community.

175. He referred to the aggressive policies of the racist regime of South Africa and noted that the just and lasting solution to the problems existing in South Africa was the most important pre-condition for the successful implementation of the UN-PAAERD. He underlined the interrelationship between disarmament and development. There was practically no country which had not, either directly or indirectly, been affected by the arms race. Expenditures on armaments in developing countries were approaching the magnitude of the combined external debt of the African region. Reductions in military spendings and the transfer of resources released as a result of disarmament measures to the purposes of peaceful socio-economic development of States, including those in developing Africa, would provide a real resource base for economic recovery and development.

176. The development of international co-operation among all the States regardless of their ideology, economic potential or size of population or territory, could play an important role in overcoming the critical economic situation in Africa. The Soviet Union called for the promotion of such co-operation and the involvement of other donors as well as recipient countries to the largest extent possible. The priority areas of such co-operation could include rendering financial, material and other forms of assistance to the developing countries jointly with developed capitalist countries, and inter alia, measures aimed at solving the external debt problem of the African region.

177. He finally assured the meeting that the Soviet Union was prepared to discuss all the elements of its recent initiative on ways and means of solving the external debt problems in multilateral fora, including consultations under the aegis of the United Nations, with a view to working out an international approach to that problem on the basis of consensus.

178. The observer for the Federal Republic of Germany expressed his country's concern for the economic situation in Africa - the hunger and poverty and Africa's debt situation. He noted that even though food production and the gross domestic product had shown signs of improvement, export earnings had remained stagnant. He referred to the expected increase in the African population and associated his Government with the views of the Secretary-General of the United Nations that population growth needed to be more closely brought into line with economic and environmental capacity.

179. He expressed his country's appreciation for the efforts and determination of the African countries to find solutions to their structural problems in the economic and social sectors. His Government recognized those efforts and had, in response, increased its bilateral assistance and provided strong support to international programmes and initiatives of multilateral institutions.

180. Thus his Government's bilateral assistance to Africa had been increased to a total of DM 2.1 billion annually representing over 40 per cent of all German bilateral aid. Another DM 1.4 billion had been channelled to Africa via multilateral organizations. The Federal Republic of Germany had also participated in other forms of assistance such as for structural and sectoral adjustment and a total of DM 6 billion of debt had been cancelled for Africa's poorest countries with a view to reducing their debt burden. Moreover, since 1990, the terms of German's financial co-operation had been considerably improved and assistance to African countries was almost exclusively in the form of grants or on IDA terms. He also mentioned his country's contribution under the Lome Convention and the special relief programme for sub-Saharan Africa. He informed the Conference of his country's lead role in contributing to the African Development Bank's fourth capital increase, to which it had contributed $US 20 billion, an increase of 200 per cent.

181. He emphasized that economic prudence and social responsibility were not mutually exclusive, and acknowledged that structural adjustment processes had to be of a long-term nature in order to alleviate social burdens. Consistent adherence to policy reform packages was therefore essential for ultimate success.

182. He referred to the armed conflicts which still prevented progress in some parts of Africa. He hoped that Namibia's independence under United Nations Security Council resolution 435 and the United Nations settlement plan in which his Government had participated in drawing up, would soon become a reality. He deplored Apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa and their negative repercussions on the region and stated that Apartheid had to be abolished and replaced by a system in which all the people of South Africa would enjoy the same human and civil rights.

183. Finally, he stressed the importance of regional co operation and stated that his country's co operation programme with SADCC was the most extensive that his Government had carried out with any regional organization in the World. He then referred to the special assistance his Government had provided to ECA in recognition of the fact that many problems in Africa transcended national boundaries and required solution at the regional level.

184. The observer for UFC twice conveyed to the Conference of Ministers the apology of the Executive Director of his organization who had wanted to deliver his statement personally but could not because of the sudden death of a member of his family on the eve of his scheduled travel to Addis Ababa and then read the Executive Director's statement to the meeting.

185. The Executive Director reviewed the current developments in Africa's food sector strategies and stated that, despite encouraging efforts in that policy domain as reflected in recent policy reforms and structural adjustment measures, the overall food situation in the region constituted a matter of grave concern. He added that per caput food production had registered a downward trend since the 1970s and the number of the poor, hungry and malnourished and the related diseases had reached alarming proportions in the 1980s. The possible causes of that situation, he said, included swelling debt burden and endless conflicts within and among countries. He also believed that the countries' efforts to implement economic adjustment measures had been a contributory factor.

186. The Executive Director maintained that orthodox adjustment programmes had been criticized for their adamant insistence on massive reductions in aggregate demand which entailed sharp contractions in output and

employment as well as in the living standards of the poor. He cautioned that unless and until these programmes focused on man as a centre of development, all stabilization and adjustment efforts would be an exercise in futility. He assured the meeting that, in recognition of the grave problems facing developing countries, particularly in Africa, his organization had embarked upon some activities which were designed to help those countries acquire skills in food policy management, promote South-South co-operation in food production, trade in agro-industry products, and in institution-building, and to combat hunger within the framework of its "Cyprus Initiative Against Hunger in the World", adopted in May 1988.

187. The representative of ARCC recalled the analysis of African economies made by the Chairman at a meeting at the Hague in September 1988 and emphasized that the relevance and accuracy of that analysis had been in perfect harmony with the AA-SAP. Having participated in all the work of TEPCCW, ARCC had had the opportunity of assessing all the statements in support of AA-SAP which was recognized by all as being absolutely vital.

188. Africa was still plagued with several problems including the growing impoverishment of its people, all sorts of disasters, the disastrous consequences of its external debt, food shortages, inadequate sanitation, and declining terms of trade between raw materials and manufactured products. No development plan had been able to overcome Africa's underdevelopment; on the contrary, African countries had become poorer, diseases had become deadlier and the confused people lacked health facilities and quality training. In that regard, AA-SAP had arrived at the right moment to help Africa overcome the errors of the past and explore new and more appropriate ways of development which would create a framework for participation by all by reconciling rural and urban areas.

189. Such new paths of development would also make it possible to reflect cultural aspects, the traditional skill of the people particularly women, and to make man the prime mover and beneficiary of the fruits of development. AA-SAP was not a framework for conflict and did not want to isolate Africa from the rest of the world. She reaffirmed her belief that the development of Africa should begin from the rural areas and move

to modern cities. AA-SAP, which was in line with that belief, would meet with the approval and active support of everyone including the international community. She ended her statement by expressing the hope that women, youth and the elderly would be closely involved in the implementation of the African Alternative to Structural Adjustment Programmes.

190. In his concluding remarks on the general debate, the Chairman underscored with satisfaction the richness of the debate. Altogether, 34 delegations had spoken with all of them concentrating on the AA-SAP, thus confirming the fundamental importance of the subject of structural adjustment. In the interventions, representatives had generally endorsed the document. However, a number of theoretical and empirical issues which related mainly to the macro-economic framework and empirical aspects of the proposals had been raised. Representatives recognized that the proposals would go through a process of further discussions and consultations.

191. Such a process of dialogue and consultations would be a long one and that the AA-SAP document was only a first step in that process. Several of the representatives considered AA-SAP as a framework for negotiation and/or planning structural adjustment programmes, and that it provided a basis for dynamic dialogue with the donor institutions. Since the process of dialogue was observed to be a long one, the need for unity at all stages was emphasized.

Consideration of the report and recommendations of the tenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (agenda item 6)

192. The Chairman of the tenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole presented the report of the Committee (E/ECA/CM.15/47). In doing so, he drew the attention of the Conference to Corrigendum (E/ECA/CM.15/47/Corr.1) on the Independence of Namibia which should be inserted as paragraph 348 under Part IV of the document, and before the subject "Statutory Issues."

193. He then reported on the attendance and organization of work of the tenth meeting of TEPCOW, its agenda and proceedings. The Committee had discussed item 4 (ii) of its agenda: Proposals for an African

Alternative to Structural Adjustment Programmes (AA-SAP) at length and had followed up those discussions with the establishment of an open-ended 17 States members sub-committee to review further the secretariat document E/ECA/CM.15/6/Rev.1 - African Alternative to Structural Adjustment Programmes (AA-SAP): A Framework for Transformation and Recovery. The report of the sub-committee as amended and adopted by TEPCOW was attached as Annex I of TEPCOW's report. The consensus of TEPCOW was that AA-SAP provided Africa with a framework which each country could use to meet its own structural adjustment needs. Some representatives had raised the issue of the title of the document and had suggested that it should be changed. Others had suggested that it should remain as it was. After a protracted exchange of views without a consensus, the Committee had decided to refer the matter to the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning for decision.

194. The Chairman of the Committee then reported on the deliberations on the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa (UNTACDA II), the preparations for the International Development Strategy (IDS) for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA) and on the secretariat's programme of work including the progress report on the implementation of the programme of work and priorities 1988-1989, the draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1990-1991, and the Medium-term Plan 1992-1997.

195. The Committee had adopted 20 resolutions, three memoranda and one appeal for consideration by the Conference of Ministers.

196. In the discussion that followed, representatives concentrated on the issues covered below.

Annual Economic Report on Africa, 1989 [agenda item 4 (i) (a) of TEPCOW]

197. The representative of Algeria requested the secretariat to correct an error which apparently concerned only the French text of the Annual Economic Report on Africa, 1989. The word "dismantled" in paragraph 33 of the report should be replaced by the words "was significantly restructured".

Proposal for an African Alternative for Structural Adjustment Programmes (AA-SAP): African Alternative for Structural Adjustment Programmes consistent with long-term development objectives [agenda item 4 (ii) of TEPCOW]

198. Some representatives expressed the need to review the title of AA-SAP in the light of paragraph 120 of the report of TEPCOW. They felt that the title should reflect the content of the document. Moreover, it was felt that the word "alternative", in particular, might raise undue hope for the population of the continent which had been suffering from the effects of orthodox SAPs. The need for an alternative was fully recognized and must be vigorously pursued. However, at that stage of the work, one was only at the beginning of the search for an alternative. Others however, believed that the title should remain as it was since it conveyed the message which Africa wanted. Indeed, the title reflected faithfully the Africanness of the document.

199. After a long exchange of views during which a number of titles were suggested, it was agreed that there was need for a consensus. In that connection, the following titles were retained for consideration:

- African Alternative to Structural Adjustment Programmes (AA-SAP): A Framework for Transformation and Recovery;
- African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes: Adjustment with Transformation;
- African Structural Adjustment Programmes: A Framework for Adjustment with Transformation; and
- Proposed Alternative for African Adjustment Programmes: A Framework for Transformation and Recovery.

200. After a further exchange of views, the Conference decided to retain the second and third proposals and then entrusted them to an Ad Hoc Committee for further discussion and recommendation. The Ad Hoc Committee comprised the Bureau, namely, Ethiopia, the Congo, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and Benin and the representatives of Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Zambia. That committee was to meet on 8 April 1989, to decide on a single title

which should be submitted to the Joint Meeting of the Ministers Responsible for Economic Development and Planning and the Ministers of Finance on 10 April 1989.

201. The representative of Cameroon stated that because of the limited experience his country had had in applying SAP, he was not in a position to contribute effectively to the debate. He, however, added that he had taken note of AA-SAP and that at an opportune time, his country would make its position on AA-SAP known.

202. The representative of Guinea stated that his delegation had no objection to AA-SAP. He regretted that his intervention during the general debate had mistakenly been interpreted as an expression of opposition to AA-SAP. In actual fact that intervention was intended to point out some imperfections and to make suggestions and recommendations for improving the AA-SAP document.

Environment in Africa - The management of environmental degradation, particularly drought and desertification aspects, in the implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) [agenda item 5 (c) of TEPCOW]

203. The representative of Guinea observed that the year in paragraph 186 should be changed from 1985 to 1984.

Special meeting of African Ministers of Civil Aviation [agenda item 6 (f) of TEPCOW]

204. The representative of Gabon referred to paragraph 318 of TEPCOW's report in which reference was made to the conversion of the Addis Ababa Centre to a Multinational Training Centre for Pilots and Aircraft Engineers and suggested that the other Centre at Mbenge, Gabon, which was for training pilots from francophone countries should also be mentioned.

Third meeting of the Regional Conference on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources [agenda item 6 (g)]

205. The representative of Zaire indicated that the last sentence of paragraph 324 should be changed to read as follows: Some representatives stressed that the studies to be carried out must take into consideration the structure, potential and market conditions, and a model document on co-operation in the sector.

Independence of Namibia

206. The representative of Angola referred to document E/ECA/CM.15/47/Corr.1 entitled "Report of the tenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole" - Corrigendum: Independence of Namibia, and stated that given the fact that it was the Brazzaville Protocol of 13 December and the New York Accord of 22 December 1988 that led South Africa to agree to the implementation of Security Council resolution 435/78 on the independence of Namibia, the text of the Corrigendum should have recognized the primary importance of that protocol and that accord in the recent developments in Southern Africa.

International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (agenda item 8)

207. A representative of Zaire requested that the following should be added to paragraph 375:

(j) to consider the integration of African economies as a process whose stages must be well defined.

Draft medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 [agenda item 10 (d) of TEPCOW]

208. The representative of Nigeria pointed out that the name of his country was omitted in paragraph 412 of TEPCOW's report in which the members of the open-ended Ad Hoc Committee on the medium-term plan were cited.

Draft resolutions, memoranda, declaration and appeal recommended by the tenth meeting of TEPCOW

209. The representative of Congo suggested that an operative paragraph should be added to resolution 1 (X) appealing to the international community to assist Africa to acquire and master technologies.

210. The representative of Guinea suggested that there should be a resolution mandating the secretariat to undertake a comprehensive study on toxic waste in Africa for 1990. The Chairman replied that the secretariat had taken note of the request and that such a study would be prepared.

211. The Conference took note of the report of TEPCOW and adopted the resolutions, memoranda, declaration, and appeals referred to it by TEPCOW for consideration and adoption.

Report of the ninth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the African Least Developed Countries (agenda item 7)

212. In the absence of the Chairman of the ninth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the African Least Developed Countries, the Chairman of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning introduced document E/ECA/CM.15/39 - Report of the ninth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the African Least Developed Countries.

213. The ninth meeting had considered the report and the resolution of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the African LDCs which had met from 22 to 24 March 1989. Following the consideration of that report, the meeting had adopted a Declaration on policies and measures for accelerating the development process in the least developed countries during the 1990s. The Declaration was to be presented to the high-level preparatory meetings for the second United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries. A resolution had also been adopted on measures for strengthening the ECA special programme for least developed, land-locked and island countries in Africa.

214. The meeting took note of the report.

Report of the fourth meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of Ten of the ECA Conference of Ministers Responsible for Human Resources, Planning Development and Utilization [agenda item 6 (i) (viii)]

215. This report not having been considered by CEPCCM was referred directly to the Ministers.

216. The Chairman of the fourth meeting of the Follow-up Committee presented the report of the Committee (document E/ECA/CM.15/28). All members of the Follow-up Committee of Ten had attended the meeting which had taken place on 4 and 5 April 1989. Observers had also been present from ILO, UNDP and ADB.

217. The meeting had reviewed the overall human resources situation in Africa. It had also considered the report of the United Nations Inter-agency Task Force on Human Resources Development and Utilization in Africa, the report of the fourth meeting of the Conference of Vice-Chancellors, Presidents and Rectors of Institutions of Higher Learning in Africa, and a report on employment in Africa. A number of recommendations had been made by the Committee in the light of issues and problems that had emerged in the areas of human resources planning, developement and utilization and steps taken towards the implementation of the Khartoum Declaration.

218. The Conference took note of the report and endorsed the recommendations.

Seventh Pledging Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) (agenda item 8)

219. The Deputy Executive Secretary welcomed delegates to the seventh pledging Conference for UNTFAD. He outlined the priority areas where UNTFAD funds would be particularly needed during the biennium 1990-1991 and expressed gratitude to both member States and non-ECA member countries who had continued to support UNTFAD and ECA's activities.

220. The representative of Zimbabwe informed the Conference that his country had taken the necessary steps several weeks ago to pay its arrears of $US 29,836. He added that Zimbabwe had already made a significant contribution to the organizations in the subregion, particularly SADCC and the Preferential Trade Area. In the spirit of collective self-sufficiency on the continent, however, the representative pledged a contribution of $Z 160,000. He would indicate later the sectors in which the funds should be used.

221. The representative of Nigeria stated that according to document E/ECA/CM.15/35, his country had paid 86 per cent of the $US 2,191,509 pledged for the biennium 1988-1989. He indicated that he would ask the ECA secretariat to correct that percentage which should be higher. He pledged a new contribution of $US 50,000, half of which should go to support the Niamey-based MULPOC activities.

222. The representative of Niger informed the Conference that there was a difference of $US 10,000 between the contribution announced by his country in 1987 ($US 26,529) and the total stated in document E/ECA/CM.15/35 and he requested the secretariat to make the necessary corrections. His country would soon pay the arrears of $US 16,629.

223. The representative of Guinea informed the Conference that his country accorded great importance to the programme of co-operation between African countries. He reaffirmed his country's support for UNTFAD by announcing a pledge of $US 5,000. Of that amount $US 4,000 was a fresh contribution while $US 1,000 was to cover Guinea's arrears of $US 1,000.

224. The representative of Zambia informed the Conference that his country would inform the ECA secretariat of a fresh contribution to the Fund as soon as possible and how such contribution should be utilized.

225. The representative of Sierra Leone took note of his country's arrears which amounted to $US 42,625 and announced a fresh contribution of $10,000, half of which was earmarked for FAO activities and the other half for WFP activities.

226. The representative of Togo informed the Conference that as it had done in the past, Togo would like to stress that despite the difficulties that Africa was facing, it was the duty of ECA member States to make a contribution, no matter how modest, to Africa's socio-economic development activities particularly at a time when resources were declining continuously and it was becoming increasingly urgent to attain development objectives.

227. For the 1990-1991 biennium, the Republic of Togo would pledge $US 10,000. Half of that contribution would go to the Niamey MULPOC to support its development activities. The other half would go to ECA to finance its work programme and to pay off the $US 650 that were registered in ECA's accounts as Togo's contribution arrears.

228. The representative of Egypt said that his country had made available to ECA a number of fellowships amounting to a total of $US 901,400. The offers for the biennium 1988-1989 had already been taken up and an agreement had already been signed for the 1990-1991 biennium for the same amount.

229. The representative of Zaire told the Conference that his country had just settled all its arrears and announced a fresh pledge to the Fund of $US 50,000 in support of the activities of the MULPOC for Gisenyi.

230. The representative of Angola briefed the Conference about the current difficulties of his country stressing in particular that the people of Angola had been making considerable sacrifices as part of the struggle for Namibian independence. His country needed $US 12 billion to reconstruct the areas destroyed by South African aggression. Although his country could not currently pledge any contribution, it supported UNTFAD which it would join later by making an appropriate contribution.

231. The representative of Lesotho announced a pledge of $US 38,872 which was identical to its 1987 pledge which had been fully disbursed.

232. The representative of Rwanda informed the Conference that his country was still facing civil war. However, in a spirit of collective self-reliance, he would announce a pledge after he had consulted his country's Minister for Finance, when the latter arrived to take part in the joint meeting.

233. Despite the economic difficulties facing his country, the representative of Guinea-Bissau announced a pledge of $US 5,000 to be disbursed as soon as possible.

234. The representative of France informed the Conference that document E/ECA/CM.15/35 had omitted France's pledge of FF 300,000 which had already been disbursed. Moreover, another document had mentioned assistance to the tune of FF 116,000 while the actual figure was FF 476,000 for assistance to the marine resources development programme of ECA. He promised to write to the ECA secretariat to make appropriate corrections. He announced a fresh pledge to the Fund of FF 400,000.

235. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany said that his country continued to provide assistance to ECA in priority areas. Due to the budget arrangements of his country, a pledge to the Fund could be announced only as part of specific projects. His country would continue to provide experts to ECA as it had been doing for many years.

236. The representative of Senegal informed the Conference that his country was going through difficult times and that, as a result, he could not announce any pledges at the current Conference. The ECA secretariat would be informed of a pledge at the appropriate time. Arrangements had been made to clear the arrears on ECA's books.

237. The representative of Ethiopia informed the Conference that his country attached special importance to the Fund and it would therefore contribute 30,000 Birr in kind of manpower.

238. The representative of Equatorial Guinea informed the Conference that despite the difficult economic situation that Equatorial Guinea, a least developed country, was going through, his country would contribute the sum of $US 2,000 in support of the activities of the Yaounde-based MULPOC with a view to promoting the policy of collective self-reliance.

239. The representative of Benin informed the Conference that as a result of the particular circumstances of his country he could not announce any pledge at the current meeting but that arrangements would be made to pay the country's arrears.

240. The representative of the Sudan informed the Conference that as a result of the difficulties facing his country a contribution of $US 5,000 would be paid into the Fund and that the amount could be revised should his country's economic situation improve.

241. The meeting was informed of a letter addressed to the Executive Secretary in which the Carnegy Foundation had pledged a sum of $US 170,000 to the Fund. The sum was earmarked for financing activities in the areas of science and technology.

Any other business (agenda item 9)

242. No issue was raised under this item.

Date, venue and matters relating to the twenty-fifth session of the Commission/sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers (agenda item 10)

243. The representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya informed the meeting that his Government hoped to host the next annual meetings of the Commission. The formal invitation to that effect would be extended to the Commission at the closing session of the meeting on Monday, 10 April 1989.